

To: Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 4:05:59 PM
Subject: statement for county

Yesterday an EPA and State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

The acidic mine water associated with the release contains high levels of sediment and metals. EPA teams are conducting sampling and visual observations today and will be monitoring river conditions over the next several days. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes.